

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11050 151005Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/067 W

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R 150650Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0646

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

1. IN A FORTY MINUTE HINDU LANGUAGE SPEECH AT THE RED FORT IN DELHI, INDEPENDENCE DAY AUGUST 15, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI SOUGHT ONCE AGAIN TO JUSTIFY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND TO DAMN THE OPPOSITION. SHE HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF FOREIGN POWERS TO THE PRESENT INTERNAL CRISIS:

(A) "THE OPPOSITION CANNOT ADOPT A PATH WHICH CAUSES HARDSHIP TO OTHERS OR WHICH MIGHT WEAKEN THE COUNTRY SO THAT FOREIGN POWERS AND FOREIGN INFLUENCES CAN COME IN AND INFLUENCE OUR POLICY AND DIRECTION. WE MADE OUR DECISIONS INDEPENDENTLY, BUT MISLEADING PROPAGANDA IS BEING DISSEMINATED FOR SOME TIME. I REPEAT AGAIN THAT OUR POLICIES ARE NOT THE POLICIES OF ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER GROUP. WE ARE NOT IN ONE GROUP OR SECOND GROUP OR THIRD GROUP. WE PROCEED KEEPING IN MIND THE INTEREST OF INDIA. WE HAVE NEVER PERMITTED ANY OTHER COUNTRY TO INTERFERE IN OUR AFFAIRS, NOR ARE WE ALLOWING THIS TODAY AND WE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS IN THE FUTURE. THIS SHOULD BE QUITE CLEAR.

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THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE DO NOT WANT FRIENDSHIP WITH

OTHERS. WE WANT FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH OUR NEIGHBORS WITH WHICH THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. OUR BELIEF IS THAT FRIENDSHIP AND ALL SORTS OF COOPERATION, ECONOMIC AND OTHER, SHOULD INCREASE EVEN WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT OUR NEIGHBORS.

(B) "I HAVE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT NO ONE CAN PREVENT INDIA FROM GOING AHEAD, NEITHER THOSE IN INDIA WHO DO NOT WANT THESE PROGRAMS NOR THOSE OUTSIDE INDIA WHO DO

NOT WANT A STRONG INDIA."

2. ATTENDANCE WAS NOT APPRECIABLY DIFFERENT THAN IN PAST YEARS. SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PRIME MINISTER WERE MORE STRINGENT THIS YEAR. TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. SAXBE

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